Dublin March 2. 1867

Dear Mrs Mary-

Your letter of Jan. 25 & 29 was very welcome, and particularly full and interesting. The only copies of the Nation to which I have any thing to say are one to myself and one to William B. Jacob, Western Bath gas Road, Dublin, whom I understand to subscribe. Unlike Irish quakers in general (who are nearly all Tories) he is a great admirer of John Bright. When John was in town a few months ago, he dined with Jacob & I was fortunate enough to be one of the guests - which I enjoyed immensely enjoyed. John is a wonderfully fine fellow, but far too American in his ways of thinking to gain much influence among the English aristocracy and millionaires who rule the country. The ferocity with which he excoriates himself in smutty macmillan and he is now the only Englishman for whom I feel much of my youthful ardour & enthusiasm. The years of advancing old age is a good damper of the tendency - this foolish tendency to Hero worship. - However I merely intended to say that I will thank you to pay for the Nation for Jacob and for me. As to the John Browns take your own way you thank best of selling them & giving the proceeds to the cause of the Freedmen - in their Lothian name. If you had rather send for them & I will forward them - able to be applied to the same purpose. I never threw them out but marked here - so they can be had only from me & I have a good many left - & I think in a bookseller hand might

have some sale in New York or Boston. By "stuck on the market" I mean they were sent to dealers a reduced price as an unsaleable book. The whole disposal of an answer appears as you wish left to you to the above purpose as Miss Ed Giffin.

You had had a few letters upon checks to the different ways of thinking about the war among your friends on this side. I never could comprehend why any or how any Northern man could sympathize with or wish well to the Slaveholders — but that many should have been truly puzzled by the timid, hesitating, compromising spirit of a great portion of the North during the commencement of the struggle — and puzzled by the evident willingness of many to make any terms with the Slaveholders provided the Union could be maintained. When in our members such great difference of opinion has resulted from the cruelty of the war among the oldest of the most devoted friends of the Slave on this side — we cannot wonder there should be the same here. Under such positively paralyzing circumstances should be made for misapprehension & difference of opinion. Now dear Miss the number of Ad names I see in connection with the Standard that very many good abolitionists think they may do good by continuing to co-operate & that they are willing to do so even though they must act with crippled means & in a very small way. A wonderful amount of allowance making and forbearance on all sides is required when even best & dear friends happen to differ in opinion on points on which they are deeply interested.

As to Mrs Mays inquiries about my visit to America I cannot give a clear answer. I would like to go – but dread the salt water. And then, ever sometimes when I have stood up run, sing, I am not at all sure that so much bodily exertion & exposure as a visit to U.S.A. would require such walking, bowing and excitement that it would sink my strength – although probably I look as well as most men of my years. But I have been all my life an excitable person & have been warmly interested in everything & anything – which I suppose wears out the springs of life much sooner than if I had taken things more easily. – Quite lately I had a pressing invitation to the Annual Festival from Female Friends of Philadelphia. Then there was there a the great attraction of the Paris Exhibition which I suppose only a few Friends of this kind are attempted, and though I have been invited by Anna Richardson, and with her sister Emma & her two nieces who there. What pleasant times these ladies appear to lead! On the whole I am quite inclined to decide on the disposal of the coming summer – for I don't know what my two daughters wish me to do. Neither of them is strong and any laborious effort would be likely to be more than they would be equal to.

Your mention of Henry Vincent was quite
startling. I enclosed a portion of it to Watts
Manchester Examined and sent it to Mrs
Vincent who I doubt not will be greatly
pleased to see her good name efforts so appre-
ciated. Vincent has long been a popular
professional lecturer in England — but his
style has too much effort & he indulges too
much in florid language to please me. He
made several efforts to get into parliament
but would have certainly have failed there, for
he is cruelly the style that does not succeed
in that particular assembly.

I would greatly like to know how George
Thompson made out in Boston
& whether he is too likely to regain his wife
& daughter in London. I heard quite lately
of the death of his only son. The young man
spent an evening at my house about two
years ago & I thought him agreeable & intel-
ligent. Whenever you do see Miss Chase
present of my indebtedness & wish him to send.

What was the reputation of Prescott the
historian in his private life. I have just
read his life by Ticknor with very great
interest. With kind regards to your household
I am Yours affectionately

Richd Webb

MS. B.1.6 v.15, p.126